



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mother Nature Throws a Hard Right

By Paul Diegnau, CGCS

Wow! What a spring. April was pretty much a bust. I sure hope someone turns the thermostat up for the month of May, especially for those of us looking for some recovery assistance! If your golf course was unaffected by this past winter, count your blessings. From what I have heard and observed, many golf courses in the Metro area sustained significant damage to their playing surfaces while, apparently, most outstate areas were spared. As I write this, I am confident Dr. Horgan and Bob Vavrek will have answered some of our questions pertaining to this latest round of turfgrass loss at the MGA Turfgrass Forum at the end of April. Word on the street is the Excelsior Mat was an effective cover – this year. Was there a difference in damage levels between sand-based USGA greens and pushup soil-based greens? Does L-93 bentgrass cut at green height show a greater susceptibility to ice damage than other bentgrass varieties? Did the amount of snow cover on a turfgrass surface affect its survivability following the rain event in late November? Why, in large areas of dead grass, did grass plants survive in the previous year's core holes? Was sand top-dressing effective in preventing the damage associated with this past winter? As you can see, I have many questions. I am sure that you do too. Live and learn and good luck in your recovery.

You can find a new feature for our affiliate members in this month's edition of the *Hole Notes*. Affiliate members who advertise in our publication have an opportunity to submit an educational article promoting their company, products and services. Only one vendor per issue will be spotlighted while we remain in hard copy format. Once we convert to digital, there is a possibility of multiple vendors participating per issue due to the unlimited space options in the digital format. We hope our affiliate members consider this an added benefit for advertising in our monthly publication. Members, please think long and hard about doing business with our affiliate members. Their continued support keeps us viable as a professional association. Try to return the favor whenever possible.

On another Affiliate member note, the 2011 Vendor Appreciation Day will be held at Olympic Hills in Eden Prairie on May 17. Golf, lunch, and a business meeting are planned for the day. If interested in attending, please contact Scott Turtinen at the MGCSA office.

Any promotion of the upcoming Turfgrass Research Benefit you can do with your membership or regular players will be greatly appreciated by the Research Committee. At the very least, please post the flier you received via email at your facility. The 2010 event was very successful. We anticipate even more golfer participation this year. Without the donated tee times this event would not be possible. Thank you to all of the participating clubs that generously donated tee times.

The MGCSA Spring Mixer is set for May 24 at New Prague Golf Course. Jeff Pint is the host Superintendent. This event has been established as a venue for Assistant Superintendents to gather for education, golf and camaraderie but any member is welcome to attend. I hope to see you there.

Finally, this spring and summer will be full of challenges for many of us in the industry. I think it is important to keep things in perspective as we go about our jobs. As a good doctor friend of mine always says, "If it's not arms or legs don't worry about it." Good words to live by.

*- Until Next Month,
Paul Diegnau, CGCS*

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